

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6462

To require the Bureau of Prisons to provide stab-resistant personal body armor to all correctional officers of the Bureau, and to require such officers to wear such armor while on duty.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2008

Mr. CARDOZA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Bureau of Prisons to provide stab-resistant personal body armor to all correctional officers of the Bureau, and to require such officers to wear such armor while on duty.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Jose Rivera Correc-
5 tional Officer Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Federal correctional officers work in a vola-
2 tile environment where they face the Nation’s most
3 serious and violent criminals every day.

4 (2) Correctional officers are surrounded by in-
5 mates with a history of violent behavior and mate-
6 rials which are converted into weapons. Relatively
7 harmless items converted into weapons are used to
8 assault correctional officers.

9 (3) While several State correctional officers and
10 local city and county law enforcement officials are
11 issued protective “stab-proof” vests on duty, Bureau
12 of Prisons correctional officers are only issued pro-
13 tective vests for use in responding to emergencies
14 and when escorting inmates in the community, not
15 during the routine, everyday performance of their re-
16 sponsibilities. Thus, Bureau of Prisons correctional
17 officers are the only segment of the correctional
18 workforce not afforded this additional safety pre-
19 caution.

20 (4) On June 20, 2008, two inmates brutally at-
21 tacked and killed Correctional Officer Jose Rivera at
22 the Federal Penitentiary in Atwater, California. The
23 two inmates who attacked Officer Rivera had been
24 classified by the Bureau of Prisons as “unable to re-

1 habilitate”, and were among the most dangerous in
2 the prison population.

3 (5) Bureau of Prisons correctional officers
4 should not be forced to put their safety at risk in
5 order to comply with an outdated standard on pro-
6 tective enhancements to uniforms, especially when
7 directly interacting with the prison population.

8 **SEC. 3. STAB-RESISTANT PERSONAL BODY ARMOR RE-**
9 **QUIRED.**

10 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Bureau of Prisons shall, subject to
12 the availability of appropriations to carry out this Act,
13 provide each correctional officer of the Bureau of Prisons
14 with stab-resistant personal body armor, and shall require
15 each such officer to wear such stab-resistant personal body
16 armor at any time such officer is on duty.

17 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
19 this Act \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

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